



# Riverside Neighborhood Partnership

Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2002, 6:30pm  
Mayor's Ceremonial Room

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**Members Present:** David McNeil, John Strzelewicz, Manuel Carrasco, Marie Leggette, Rosie Francisco, Phyllis Wells, Brenda Flowers, Tom Martin, Erin House, Rita Norton, Barbara Brown, Lee Wagner, Nancy Hart

**Excused:** Richard Burns, Arthur Bos, Dana Kruckenberg

**Unexcused:** Jaime Hurtado, Phil Abraham, John Garcia, Ernie Hautala, Randy Akes

**Guests:** Terry Nielsen, Park and Recreation Director, Siobhan Foster, Riverside Vision Plan; Greg Arias, William Turpin

**Staff:** Eva Webster and Martha Matus, Office of Neighborhoods

1. **Welcome/Self-Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Manuel Carrasco, Chairman at 6:40 followed by self-introductions.

2. **Approval of Minutes – April 1, 2002**

General consent on approval of the minutes from the April 1, 2002. With minor corrections having been requested, minutes approved by chairman.

3. **Park and Recreation Overall Park Plan – Terry Nielsen, Director**

Terry Nielsen reported that the City and the Park and Recreation Department is given funds that go towards the acquisition, construction or refurbishment of existing parks. In 2001-2002, the Park and Recreation Department was funded \$27 Million to refurbish existing parks throughout the city. Currently, the City Council is approving another \$2 million for the Capital Improvement Plan with the adoption of the Budget in June 2002. Sycamore Highlands Community Action Group came together with unified voice presented their need of a neighborhood park to the Park and Recreation Department who in turn supported their case as they presented their case to the Park Commission and City Council. The Park Commission and City Council agreed to set aside \$30,000 to Master Plan Sycamore Highland Park because the nearest school and/or park is over a 6-mile drive. The next phase is finding the monies to develop the park. The neighborhood group is currently working with the developer to help fund a turnkey park situation such as the Orange Terrace Park. Riverside Neighborhood Partnership may demonstrate support of neighborhood groups by endorsing their neighborhood park to the City Council and Park Commission. Currently, there are nine undeveloped neighborhood parks in City of Riverside.

4. **Riverside Vision Plan – Siobhan Foster, Planning Department**

Siobhan Foster reported that the City of Riverside launched a Community Vision effort to allow the community to share their vision of where they want Riverside to be in the next 10 – 15 years. This information will be used as a guide to be used to in the future development of land use, circulation patterns, open space, etc. Siobhan requested the support of the RNP members to help get community participation in this effort by becoming a Visioneer or recruiting other residents to volunteer for this project and receive training.

5. **Reports from Subcommittees**

a. **Neighborhood Conference Committees:** Tom Martin, Chairman, requested reports from the following subcommittees:

- i. **Sessions:** Eva Webster reported that the sessions subcommittee has committed to invite keynote speaker: Karen Sussman, "Building Community Involvement" and will give two sessions. Karen will also call some neighborhood leaders to ask what they would like to see in her session. Staff is working on materials. Eva requested that a RNP member volunteer as a presenter of "Neighborhood Link."
- ii. **Publicity:** Manuel Carrasco reported that the subcommittee will arrange a meeting this month. Eva Webster reminded members to solicit for door prizes.
- iii. **Exhibits:** Arthur Bos is not in attendance. Staff continues to work with City departments to provide informational booths.
- iv. **Operations/Site/Volunteer:** John Stzrelewicz reported that the subcommittee will meet in May to develop the site schematic and volunteer recruitment. Park and Recreation will provide childcare services at the conference.

6. **Discussion of By-Laws Amendments – Eva Webster**

Eva Webster reported that staff attempted to get By-laws subcommittee to meet last month unsuccessfully. Eva and Legal department amended the By-Laws and will provide a copy for the subcommittee to review. Subcommittee meeting date was set for May 28 at 5:30 p.m.

7. **Future Agenda Items**

- Letter of support to City Council on behalf of Sycamore Highlands Community Action Group.
- Tom Martin requested that the new City Manager, George Carvalho be invited to the next RNP meeting.
- William Turpin, Association of Riverside Apartment Communities (AFRAC) requested to be placed on the agenda as a presenter at the next meeting.

8. **Other Business**

- Lee Wagner announced that the Jack B. Clarke, Jr. "Let's Celebrate Family" event will be held at Raincross Square May 8, 2002, at 11:00am.
- Eva Webster announced that the Award Programs and Neighborhood Conference is in the Riverside Report Spring issue. Upcoming events: College Fair planned for September 2002, Health and Fitness Fair May 18, Homebuyers Fair June 8.
- Eva Webster reported that staff attended Healthy Cities Conference as well as the Park and Recreation Department director and staff who have taken over Healthy Cities projects.
- Eva Webster requested that staff provide monthly reports to the RNP on any new neighborhood groups and the happenings. Tom Martin recommended that new groups be invited to make a brief presentation of their new group.
- Tom Martin reminded board about upcoming elections in September and neighborhood caucus. Column A is up for re-election in July at the conference.

9. **Next Meeting: June 3, 2002, 6:30 p.m., Mayor's Ceremonial Room – 7<sup>th</sup> Floor**

10. **Adjournment**